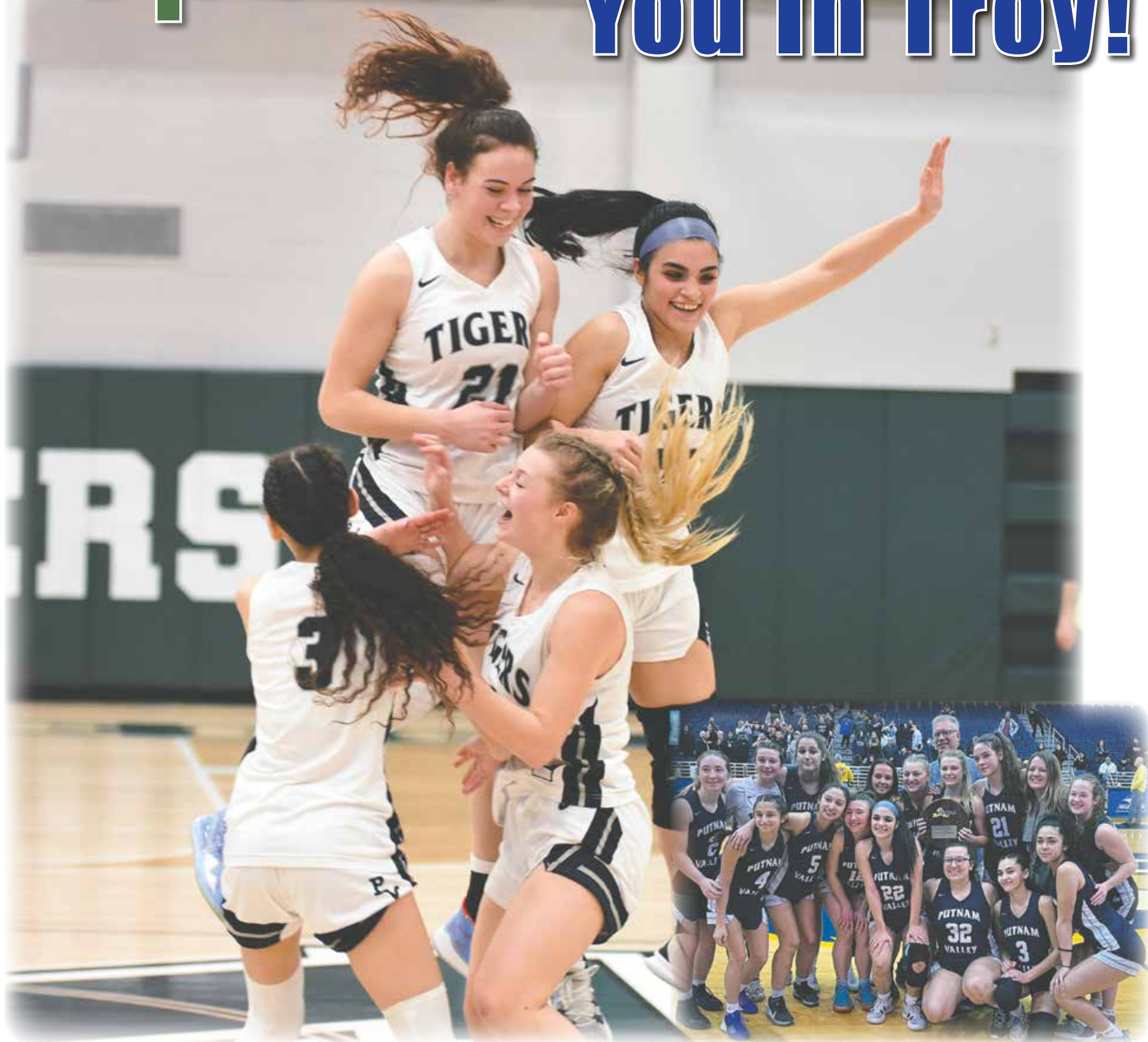


Examiner Sports

Oh, Boy, See You In Troy!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

DAVID KANTROWITZ PHOTO

Putnam Valley Shocks Locust Valley, Advances to NYS Final 4

Putnam Valley's Nai Torres, Eva DeChent, Amanda Orlando and Brianna Foody jump for joy after the Tigers defeated Section 9 champion Red Hook, 54-49, last Thursday at Yorktown High to advance to the NYSPHSAA regional finals on Long Island where PV knocked off previously undefeated Section 8 champion Locust Valley, 49-38, to reach the NYC Class B Final 4 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy this Saturday (12:30 p.m.) where the Tigers will take on Section 5 champ Waterloo, which is on a 39-0 tear. Put Valley later posed (inset) with the first NYSPHSAA regional title in hoops history at Hofstra University last Saturday... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Putnam Valley Snaps Locust Valley's 54-Game Win Streak

Tigers Advance to 1st NYS Final 4 vs. Waterloo's 39-Game Streak; DeChent Sets Career Scoring Mark

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Locust Valley's size didn't matter, its Long Island-record 54-straight wins hardly mattered... all that mattered was Section 1 Class B champion Putnam Valley's self belief. The fact that Section 8 champion Locust Valley would dominate the glass due to its distinct size advantage barely mattered at all as Coach Don Hamlin's Tigers (19-7) snapped the state-ranked (No.3) Falcons' winning streak that dated back to 2019 while advancing to their first NYSPHSAA Final 4 after a convincing 49-38 triumph last Saturday at Hofstra University.

Now, the Tigers will contend with yet another streak. State-ranked (No.9) Putnam Valley will face the state-ranked (No.1) Section 5 champion Waterloo – winners of 39-straight games – Saturday at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy in the state semis (12:30 p.m.). Section 2 Schalmont (ranked No.2 in NYS) will square off against state-ranked (No.4) Section 3 champion General Brown in the opposite bracket with the winners set to square off in Sunday's state title tilt (11:45 a.m.).

The Tigers reached the regional finals after a harrowing 54-49 win over a persistent Red Hook team in the subregional Thursday at Yorktown High School where the @PV_Superfans were out in full throat.

Along the way, Putnam Valley junior G Eva DeChent set the school's career scoring mark, establishing a new record with 1,395 career points to break the mark of former Tiger and former PV Coach Kristi Dini (1,394, 2003-05), who has had a lot to do with the development of DeChent.

"This is the greatest feeling of all time," DeChent exclaimed after scoring a team-high 13. "I am honored to be going to the state Final 4. I've been waiting for this since my freshman year, but COVID had other plans. We are so ready for this."

"I have so much respect for Coach Dini who previously held the record for so long," said DeChent, who added 10

rebounds, four steals and three blocks. "I'm honored to hold the career record. She's been my AAU coach forever and it means a lot to me because I've always looked up to her."

The Falcons (23-1) held DeChent to 13, which was a testament to the LV defense, but PV senior G Amanda Orlando picked right up where she left off in the Red Hook game, scoring 11 points while excelling at both ends of the floor, including the biggest dime of the game, finding DeChent for a layup with 2:39 remaining after Locust Valley got within three, 37-34. PV sophomore G Nai Torres continued to blossom before the eyes of state hoopers and finished

with a team-high 15 points while tough junior G Brianna Foody added seven points, a couple of steals and a few boards.

"This was a total team win," said PV Coach Don Hamlin, who won a NYS Class B title at Briarcliff in 2008 before capping that off with the Federation crown. "They really dig in defensively and I couldn't be more proud of them. Every kid made an impact on this win."

DeChent triggered a 12-4 closing run, serving a facial on Reily Roberts to trigger a bucket in transition. She added another from Orlando for a 39-34 lead with 2:30 to play, this after Orlando matched a Locust Valley

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Putnam Valley's Naieliz Torres (L) grabs a happy hug from teammates Amanda Orlando and Brinanna Foody after win over Red Hook.



Putnam Valley junior G Eva DeChent drops a deep 3 in Tigers' 54-49 NYS regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.



Putnam Valley senior G Amanda Orlando drops two points in Tigers' 54-49 NYS regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Put Valley Coach Don Hamlin squares up with his Tigers amidst PV Superfans after Tigers reached 2nd Class B regional final in school history after beating Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown.



A pair of Red Hook defenders are a day late and a dollar short as Put Valley's Eva DeChent sinks back-breaking trey in Tigers' NYS regional win.

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triple with one of her own off the wing at 5:20 of the fourth. Torres added another from distance at 1:57 and followed with two more points at 1:30 for a 44-34 edge #GameOver.

PV came out firing on all cylinders, which was clutch, given the fact that Locust Valley hadn't been slapped in the mouth since 2019 and was just miles away from its home base. After an Orlando bucket from Ava Harmon at 3:50 of the second quarter, PV extended its largest

first-half lead to nine, 20-11, when Nat Mazza scored off an Harmon steal at 2:45 of the second, but the Tigers were held scoreless through the halftime buzzer and Locust Valley trimmed the lead to 20-16 at the pause.

DeChent crushed a long-range 3-ball with 2:55 left in the third for a 29-22 lead.

Against state-ranked (No.8) Red Hook (16-6), Orlando played a career game at both ends of the floor, finishing with 19 points and seven rebounds to go with a

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PV Superfans pumped up the volume in Tigers sub-regional win over Red Hook at Yorktown Thursday.



Putnam Valley sophomore G Nai Torres sinks an off-balance shot in Tigers' regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.



Putnam Valley G Brianna Foody goes baseline in Tigers' 54-49 NYS regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.



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pair of charges taken and incredible man-to-man defense of Marist-bound Morgan Tompkins (14 points), who Orlando limited to four second-half points.

PV came out like it was shot from a cannon, taking a 15-3 lead, but that disappeared when DeChent and Torres both picked up their second personal fouls early in the second quarter.

The Tigers would need a spark while its role players took center stage. Orlando, a senior guard and captain, came up clutch, keeping the Tigers afloat while Red Hook's McKenzie Simmons and Morgan Tompkins awoke and built a 24-22 halftime lead. With Red Hook focusing extra hard on stopping the All-Section G DeChent, Orlando scored 14 points in the second half and snagged several offensive rebounds for put-back buckets while clamping Tompkins on the other end when the the Tigers switched out of a lackluster zone defense and went to their trademark man-to-man.

Orlando spotted Putnam Valley a 50-43 lead with 3:41 to go, before a dime to DeChent (21 points, 10 boards, 6 assists, 2 blocks) made it a 53-49 lead with 1:03 left. Torres knocked down 12 crucial points and played with the poise of a senior, much less a sophomore.

"This is the greatest feeling in my life right now," Orlando admitted. "We did this as a team, we wanted it so bad and I think that my confidence and motivation, with everyone helping me out, I did this for them. I'm so excited, this is a dream come true. This is my senior year, we gotta do it this year."

It's not hard to imagine what might have been for the Tigers had COVID not stuck a fork in the spokes of this PV program. The Tigers have been Class B's most consistent program in NYS for three seasons now and

were on course – under former Coach Dini – to reach the NYS Final 4 in both 2019 and 2020. History won't ever be able to give an accurate account of what might have been due to the pandemic, but this stretch of basketball will fondly be looked upon as the golden era of PV hoops until further notice.

With Waterloo on the horizon: 6-1 270-pound senior Giavanna White-Principio, who commands each end of the floor with authority, will be the main focus of attention. Jazzmyn Lewis, Natalie DiSanto and Morgan Caraballo and Macy Carr make the Indians (24-0) a complete team. Of their 24-straight victories this season, only four were less than double digits.

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RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

PV coach Don Hamlin (L) seeks his second NYSPHSAA Class B title this weekend at Troy where his Tigers will challenge Waterloo in NYS semis.



Putnam Valley A.D. David Kantrowitz poses with his first NYSPHSAA regional title plaque and commemorative ball after his Tigers knocked off Section 8 champ Locust Valley Saturday at Hofstra U.



Putnam Valley F Natalie Mazza finds a crease to rack in Tigers' 54-49 NYS regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.



Put Valley players bask in the glory of the Tigers NYS Class B regional win over Red Hook Thursday at Yorktown High.



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Pace senior middle Aleya Corretjer takes the ball across the field in Friday's win. She scored three goals and assisted on two others.



Sydney Juvelier chases after a ground ball in Pace's 16-4 home win vs. the College of Saint Rose.



Pace senior Jaimie Bell looks to pass in the third quarter vs. Saint Rose. She had a goal and an assist in the Setters' win.

focus on **PACE** **Athletics**



Pace University's Jolie Urraro surveys the field as she moves the ball up the field in the second half of the Setters' lopsided win over Saint Rose.



The Setters' Katie Smaldone searches for an open teammate in Friday afternoon's conference victory over visiting Saint Rose.



Kayla Conway of Pace races up the field with the ball in the first half of Friday's home game against the College of Saint Rose. She tied a school record with seven goals in the 16-4 victory.



The Setters' Angelina Porcello gets set to fire a shot at the goal in the third quarter of Friday afternoon's rout of Saint Rose.



Pace's Jennifer Sommer controls the ball near midfield in the second quarter of Friday's 16-4 rout that improved the Setters' record to 4-0 this season.



Freshman midfielder Gigi Genovese runs past Deanna Cilento of Saint Rose along the left sideline in the first quarter of the 16-4 Pace win.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Marcus Ottaviano of Pace goes on the attack in the second quarter of Friday's home game. The Setters won easily to improve to 3-0 this season.



The Setters' Jake Veres tries to run past Wilmington's Nick Bruhn behind the cage during Friday's home game. He finished with two goals and an assist in the 15-4 rout.



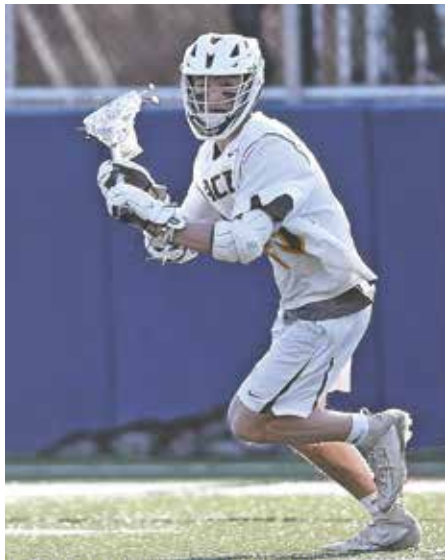
Pace University's Kyle Casey pursues the ball near the crease in the first half of Friday afternoon's game. He had six goals and three assists as the Setters crushed Wilmington 15-4.



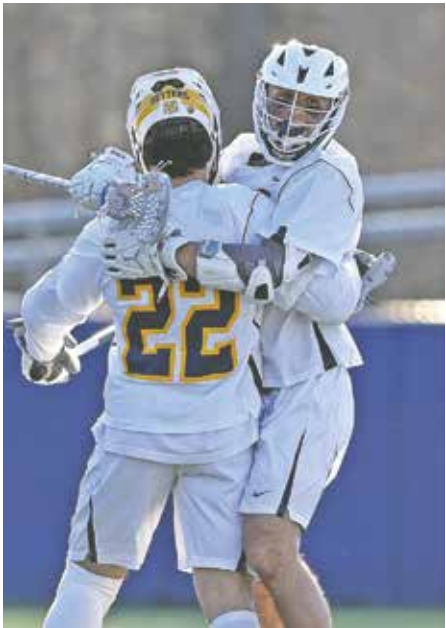
Pace's Anthony Caputo wound up with a pair of goals and an assist in the 15-4 victory over Wilmington.



Pace goalie Louis Ragusa gets set to clear the ball after making a save in the second quarter of the Setters' home win over Wilmington University.



Andrew Llamas controls the ball behind the cage in the first half of Pace's lopsided win on Friday afternoon.



The Setters' Anthony Caputo (22) and Tim Cairo do some celebrating after a goal in the victory over visiting Wilmington.



Pace Women's Basketball Team Reaches the East Regional Final With a Victory Over USciences

With a pair of victories in the 2022 Division II East Regional Basketball Tournament, the seventh-seeded Pace University Setters have moved within one win of a berth in the NCAA's Elite Eight.

Sparked by guard Lauren Hackett's 19 points, six rebounds, six assists and three steals, the Setters defeated third-seeded USciences 65-60 on Saturday night up in Manchester, New Hampshire to set up a Monday night showdown against eighth-seeded Daemen College with the East Region title up for grabs.

The Setters, now 23-7 this season, never trailed the Devils all evening and took the lead for good just over two minutes in on a layup by Lauren Schetter, who finished with 17 points and seven rebounds. Hackett connected on a trio of 3-pointers in the second quarter, helping Pace take a 33-27 lead.

A pair of Hacket free throws midway through the third quarter gave the Setters their largest lead of the game, 46-33, but by the end of the period the Devils had cut their deficit to just five points. USciences moved within two twice in the fourth quarter, but a clutch 3-point shot from Arianna Stockinger with 2:30 left helped Pace stave off the comeback bid and punch its ticket to Monday's regional title game.

SETTER SCORING SPREE



**Pace Senior Kayla Conway
Equals the School Record
With Seven Goals on Friday
in a Victory Over Saint Rose**